Biographical Statement

Lauren Breton

At this point in time, the majority of my non-academic time is spent working at a small local bank, spending time with my sisters and their children, watching Boston Red Sox games, or working on an independent research project through the University of Maine at Farmington. This semester, I received a scholarship to begin research on the establishment of genres, the social perception between young adult literature and literature, and to develop a teaching unit to help bring young adult literature into the classroom during my semester-long internship in the spring of 2014. I have also been participating in a mentoring program that pairs female undergraduate students with seventh and eighth grade girls from the local middle school. For one evening per month, we discuss a book that we have read as a group and have dinner with our mentees. I feel very passionately about the importance of young girls having a mentor to be a positive role model in their life, and I would be thrilled to embrace opportunities working with girls and/or young women through a school or through community partnerships.

I feel very passionately about the importance of education as well as the importance of literature and language arts in curriculum. I can’t think of any part of the language arts or literature curriculum that I wouldn’t be interested in teaching, although I do have a specific interest in learning how to teach students to read. Since my undergraduate program has been at the secondary level, there has been little emphasis on learning how to teach students to read if they are not reading at secondary school level. In the United States, we are dealing with a crisis of students who are not all able to read at the requisite reading level and who cannot interpret the texts taught at the secondary level. One of my favorite things about my concentration is that it is so adaptable and that there are so many different applications for language arts and literature. I would love to be able to adapt my lesson plans to work with students who are still working on learning how to read and helping them to read and understand texts more effectively.

In addition to helping students with content, I am interested in expanding my flexibility as an educator. During my practicum experience, I worked with a student and was placed in a mandatory reporting scenario having to do with problems within the student’s family. I was able to be flexible and ensure that resources were provided for my student and that his needs were met, but I would like to further employ this flexibility with students in the classroom as well as by working with students from a different culture than my own and students who may have different needs.

For my whole life, I have lived in the same area of rural Maine. Although I feel blessed to have grown up in a quaint, beautiful area where everybody knows everybody else, I have also always had the desire to travel and to see more of the world. Through my teacher education program at the University of Maine at Farmington, I have had several opportunities to work in schools or with students in this area, and the biggest deficit in my educational experience is diversity. Since I live in such a small rural area, there is a lack of cultural diversity. It is my hope to be able to combine my passion of education with my passion for learning about other cultures through an internship abroad.